

Brethren, this Applies to Me!!!

1 Kings 17:1-16

Introduction:

- A. Elijah said, "Me first."
- B. I need to say that when I study the Bible.
- C. It is essential that we practice what we preach to others. Romans 2:21-24
- D. A preacher who was new in town asked a small boy for directions to the post office. The boy told him, "You turn right, go one block, then turn left and go another block, and there it is."
The preacher thanked him and said, "You come to church next Sunday and I'll show you the way to heaven."
The boy shook his head. "How can you show me the way to heaven," he asked, "when you can't even find the post office?" (*Faith, Hope and Hilarity*, Dick Van Dyke, page 95).
- E. It has been surprising to me that most if not all, the passages that we use to show that our religious friends are wrong, have their first and primary application to us.
 - 1. We do need to be aware of religious error.
 - 2. For our own growth, we need to make application to our lives God's truth.
 - 3. Grocer, owner of restaurant needs to eat as well as sell food.
 - 4. At least 22 the 27 books of the New Testament were written to those who were Christians already.
- F. Four attitudes could prevail in studying the Bible.
 - 1. "It's my duty, so I'll do it."
 - 2. "How can I prove my friends wrong?"
 - 3. "How can I prove I'm right?"
 - 4. "What does God want me to know, be, and do?"
 - a. The Bible is God's mind revealed in words that man can understand, and obey. 1 Corinthians 2:9-13; Ephesians 3:2-5; Ephesians 5:17; James 1:22
 - b. God's word, the Bible, was written to last forever. Matthew 24:35; 1 Peter 1:24,25
 - c. Therefore, God wants me to read and study His word in view of applying it in my life. Psalm 51:17; Matthew 5:3-6
- G. I invite you to join me in perhaps a fresh consideration of some familiar passages with the following thoughts: 1 Samuel 3:9,10; Psalm 139:23,24; 2 Corinthians 13:5; Acts 16:30; Mark 14:18,19; Luke 18:9-14

I. FAITH ONLY.

- A. James 2:24.
 - 1. I think of the Methodist Book of Discipline.
 - 2. “Faith only” is not biblical. Exodus 9:18-21
- B. Context.
 - 1. Written to brethren. James 1:1,2; 2:14-26
 - 2. Encourage us to obey the truth as well as believe the truth. James 1:22; Hebrews 5:8,9
 - a. In speech. James 1:26; James 3:1-12
 - b. Visitation, purity. James 1:27
 - c. Attitude and action toward others. James 2:1-13

II. WALK BY FAITH, NOT BY SIGHT.

- A. 2 Corinthians 5:7.
- B. Often apply to those who add things not authorized in God’s word, or who can’t “see” the necessity of baptism.
- C. Context. 2 Corinthians 5:1-11
- D. My faith needs to grow. Romans 10:17; John 20:30,31; 1 John 5:4
 - 1. There are all kinds of believers; little believers, middle believers, halfway believers, big believers. It reminds me of the man who was always telling me: “I’ve got half a mind to...” And because he used that phrase so much, and acted like he had half a mind to do something, he never accomplished much in this life. He didn’t meet any situation head-on (*Success Unlimited*, August, 1980, page 18).
 - 2. A Jew, one of many hiding from Hitler, once knew such a dark time. We know about his faith. For scrawled on the basement walls of a German house are these courageous words:
 - I believe in the sun even when it is not shining,
 - I believe in love even when I do not feel it.
 - I believe in God, even when He is silent.(*Move Ahead With Possibility Thinking*, by Robert H. Schuller).
- E. A growing faith is one that recognizes its weakness and works on it. Mark 9:23,24; 1 Thessalonians 3:10

III. RIGHTLY DIVIDE THE WORD.

- A. 2 Timothy 2:15.
 - 1. Make proper application as to:
 - a. Who said it?
 - b. To whom was it spoken?
 - c. What was said?
 - 2. We should study hard. 1 Peter 2:2; 2 Peter 1:5-7; 2 Peter 3:18

- B. Romans 7:4.
 - 1. Old law is dead. Ephesians 2:15; Colossians 2:14; Hebrews 8:6,7; Hebrews 10:9
 - 2. We are to bear fruit. 2 Timothy 2:24,25
 - C. John 15:1-8.
 - 1. The vine is Jesus; the branches are disciples – not denominations. Ephesians 4:4,5; Matthew 16:18
 - 2. And the branches are to bear fruit. Galatians 5:23,24
- IV. DON'T ALTER GOD'S WORD. Revelation. 22:18,19
- A. An eternal principle.
 - 1. Stated. Deuteronomy 4:2; Proverbs 30:6; Galatians 1:6-12; Colossians 3:17
 - 2. Illustrated. Romans 15:4; Leviticus 10:1,2
 - B. We apply this to mechanical instruments of music in worship.
 - C. Application of this principle to us.
 - 1. Don't add our opinion as law.
 - 2. Don't omit.
 - a. Singing. Colossians 3:16
 - b. Church discipline. 2 Thessalonians 3:6
 - (1) "If we practiced church discipline, we would have to withdraw from my cousin."
 - (2) What is the difference in that and "My cousin plays the piano in her church in worship"?
 - D. The theme of Revelation: we're going to win! Revelation 17:14
 - E. Context. Revelation 1:1,4; Revelation 22:14; Revelation 2:1-7; Revelation 3:1-6; Revelation 3:14-22
- V. UNITY.
- A. Christ wants it. John 17:20,21; I Corinthians 1:10-13
 - B. To our religious friends we say, denominationalism is wrong – and it is!
 - C. Notice the primary application.
 - 1. Those who would believe on Jesus through the word of the apostles. John 17:20; Mark 16:16; Acts 5:14
 - 2. To the church at Corinth. I Corinthians 1:2,10
 - D. Unity in the body of Christ.
 - 1. Necessary.
 - a. Can't love God without it. I John 4:20
 - b. A mark of Christ's disciples. John 13:35
 - 2. Ways to apply these scriptures.
 - a. Worship together. I Corinthians 10:16,17; Colossians 3:16; Hebrews 10:25,24

- b. Work together. Philippians 1:27; Philippians 4:2,3
- c. Eat together. Acts 2:46
- d. Work hard for unity. Ephesians 4:1-6; Ephesians 1:1,3

VI. URGENCY IN OBEDIENCE.

- A. Hebrews 2:1-3.
 - 1. Alien sinner shouldn't neglect obeying the gospel.
 - 2. We must not neglect: Hebrews 1:1-14
 - a. Bible study. Hosea 4:6; John 5:39
 - b. Prayer. I Thessalonians 5:17; Hebrews 4:15,16
 - c. Growing, teaching. Hebrews 5:12-6:3
 - d. Worship, fellowship, mutual encouragement, continued faithfulness. Hebrews 10:19-26
- B. 2 Corinthians 6:1,2.
 - 1. Teach people to obey the gospel – now; it is urgent: Acts 22:16
 - 2. We must not neglect grace and opportunity.
 - a. To whom written. 2 Corinthians 1:1
 - b. Grace teaches a vital response. Titus 2:11-14
 - c. Time is of essence. John 9:4; James 4:13-17
 - d. Now is the time to enjoy the blessings, promises, and prospects of salvation. 2 Corinthians 5:21,17,14,15, 1,6-8

VII. PASSAGES OF ASSURANCE APPLY TO US.

- A. We sometimes fear the passages that provide comfort, boldness, and assurance because they have been misused to teach false doctrine.
- B. These passages apply to us!!!
 - 1. Know that we are saved. I John 5:13
 - a. 2 Timothy 1:12.
 - b. Acts 15:11.
 - c. 2 Timothy 4:6-8.
 - 2. Not fear because the Lord is my helper. Hebrews 13:5,6; Hebrews 4:11-16; 1 John 2:1-6
 - 3. No man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand. John 10: 27-29; Romans 8:35-39

Conclusion:

- A. Let us defend the gospel, contend for the faith, and give answer to those that ask us. Philippians 1:17; Jude 3; I Peter 3:15
- B. But let us not only out-argue our friends; let us out-practise them in doing all God's will.
 - 1. The Catholics should not have more reverence in worship than we do.
 - 2. The Pentecostals should not emphasize the Holy Spirit and His word more than we do.

3. The Mormons or Jehovah's Witnesses should not have more zeal for winning souls than we do.
 4. The Seventh-Day Adventists should not give more of their income and live a cleaner, more separated life than we do.
 5. The Baptists should not have more confidence in their salvation and feel closer to Heaven than we do.
- C. By God's grace and a study and application of His word, we can grow each day.
- D. Let us all, everyone take a personal inventory – make a personal application.
1. Examination. 2 Corinthians 13:5; 2 Corinthians 10:12,18; Psalm 139:23,24
 2. What response do I need?
 - a. Out of Christ. Acts 16:30-34
 - b. In Christ. 2 Corinthians 3:2; Matthew 5:13-16; Acts 4:13